

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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SAM-01 AEC-11 DRC-01 /159 W
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8213

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1570

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS MORE OPTIMISTIC ON CSCE, MBFR

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. A SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC TONE HAS APPEARED IN POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY ON CSCE AND MBFR IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS. THIS CONTRASTS MARKEDLY WITH EARLIER PRESS CRITICISMS OF THE WEST FOR LACK OF PROGRESS AT BOTH CONFERENCES.

2. ON CSCE, TRYBUNA LUDU HAS CARRIED SEVERAL FRONT-PAGE
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REPORTS OF PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF FINAL DOCUMENTS.

MOST RECENTLY, THESE STORIES HAVE FOCUSED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NONVIOLABILITY OF FRONTIERS. PICKING UP THIS THEME, ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON MARCH 14 PUBLISHED A LONG INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-KNOWN POLISH INTERNATIONAL LAWYER IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WAYS IN WHICH PEACEFUL BORDER CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. ZYCIE FOLLOWED THIS ON MARCH 19 WITH AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "EUROPEAN SCENE: ACCELERATION" WHICH, WITHOUT DISCOUNTING THE OBSTACLES, DESCRIBED THE GROWING MOMENTUM FOR SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF CSCE SO ITS ACHIEVEMENTS MAY BE CROWNED AT A SUMMIT IN HELSINKI IN JULY. NOTABLE, THE ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE "IMPORTANT" PARTICIPANTS ARE MORE INCLINED TOWARD "SENSIBLE COMPROMISES."

3. ON MBFR, BOTH TRYBUNA AND ZYCIE HAVE CARRIED SIMILAR, UPBEAT COMMENTARY. EACH CAREFULLY SETS FORTH IN WELL KNOWN TERMS THE WARSAW PACT RATIONALE FOR ITS OWN PROPOSALS AND ITS CRITICISMS OF THE WESTERN POSITION. EXCLUSION OF THE BUNDESWEHR FROM THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, FOR EXAMPLE, IS CITED AS A MAJOR DEFICIENCY, AND IT IS ALLEGED THAT GROWING NATO DEFENSE BUDGETS, COMBINED WITH UNREALISTIC REDUCTION PROPOSALS, INDICATE THAT NATO WANTS TO READJUST THE MILITARY BALANCE IN ITS FAVOR. ADDITIONALLY, THE ZYCIE COMMENTS SUGGESTS THAT, BY CONCENTRATING ONLY ON REDUCTION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES, THE WEST IS HOPING TO ENSURE SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE US WITHDRAWALS SOUGHT BY CONGRESS.

4. BOTH ARTICLES CONCLUDE ON A CLEAR, POSITIVE NOTE, HOWEVER, CITING, IN PARTICULAR, VARIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM IN THE WEST. THE ZYCIE ARTICLE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WEST NOW SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THESE RECENT ARTICLES HAVE NOT MENTIONED BASKET THREE AT ALL, WHEREAS THE PREVIOUS PRESS LINE HAD BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF WESTERN POSITIONS ON BASKET THREE. THIS NEW OPTIMISTIC TONE OF POLISH CENTRAL PRESS COMMENTARIES ON CSCE AND MBFR MAY REFLECT AN ATTEMPT TO STEP UP THE PRESSURE ON WESTERN NEGOTIATORS. HOWEVER, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SQUARE THIS POSITIVE TONE WITH THE

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DECIDED PESSIMISM, PARTICULARLY ON PROSPECTS FOR MBFR, THAT POLISH OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS RECENTLY HAVE EXPRESSED TO US.
DAVIES

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